NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 25 February 1864;—*for*,

COPIES "of all MINUTES of the BOARD of NATIONAL EDUCATION in *Ireland*, passed since 1857, respecting the Revision, Alteration, or Increase of the CLASS BOOKS, or other MANUALS of INSTRUCTION used, or intended to be used, in the NATIONAL SCHOOLS:"

"Of the Names of the PARTIES to whom the actual Writing, Revision, or Editing of these NEW WORKS has been entrusted, with a STATEMENT of the Titles of the Works, and the progress made towards their Publication:"

"And, of CORRESPONDENCE between the Board of Guardians of the *Ballinasloe* Poor Law Union and the Commissioners, respecting the Compilation of a SCHOOL MANUAL of the HISTORY of *Ireland*, and Names of the PERSONS to whom the Preparation of the Work has been entrusted."

Office of National Education, Dublin, 16 July 1864.

JAMES KELLY, WILLIAM M'CREEDY, Secretaries.

(*Mr. Hennessy.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 20 *July* 1864.

509.

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— I. —

COPIES of all MINUTES of the BOARD of NATIONAL EDUCATION in *Ireland*, passed since 1857, respecting the Revision, Alteration, or Increase of the CLASS BOOKS or other MANUALS of INSTRUCTION used, or intended to be used, in the NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

No. 1.—EXTRACT from Minutes of Board of National Education, authorising purchase of copies of an essay on "Mangold Wurzell."

MINUTE, dated 26 March 1858.

Read letter, No. 1,692, from the Agricultural Inspector, submitting copy of an essay on "Mangold Wurzell," by one of the pupils at the Albert Farm, named John Tynan, and suggesting that 500 copies be ordered for distribution in the National Agricultural Schools.

Ordered, that 500 copies be purchased at 3 *d.* per copy for the purposes stated.

No. 2.—EXTRACTS from Minutes of Board of National Education regarding parts in Sequel No. 2 to "Second Book of Lessons," pirated from a work of Messrs. Smith & Elder; the omission of those parts, &c. &c.

1. MINUTE, dated 26 March 1858.

Read letter, No. 1,735, from Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., Booksellers, Cornhill, London, stating that the following narratives in the Sequel No. 2 to the "Second Book of Lessons," viz., the "History of Columbus and the Discovery of America," pp. 18–40, "Perseverance, or the History of William Hutton," pp. 41–45, and the "History of the Italian Boy," pp. 74–89, are pirated from a work of which they hold the copyright, entitled "The Parents' Cabinet of Amusement and Instruction," inquiring what redress the Commissioners are prepared to offer for this infringement of their rights; and requesting that instructions may be given to stay the issue of any further copies of the work in question.

Ordered, that the law adviser be called on to state his opinion as to the application of the Copyright Act to this case; and that Mr. Cross be requested to ascertain from his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, under whose directions the Sequel No. 2 was compiled, from what source the narratives in question were taken.

2. MINUTES, dated 31 March 1858.

Mr. Cross reports that, in obedience to the directions of the Board, he waited on the Archbishop of Dublin, with a view of ascertaining if he remembered the name of the work from which the narratives in the Sequel No. 2 of the Second Book of Lessons, referred to by the Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co. were taken; and that his Grace stated that he had no recollection of the source from which they had been derived, nor of the work alluded to by the publishers, viz., "The Parents' Cabinet of Amusement and Instruction."

Ordered, that the matter be referred to the law adviser for his opinion; and that his attention be directed to the latest Copyright Act.

3. MINUTE, dated 9 April 1858.

The Secretary submits the opinion of the law adviser with respect to the complaint of Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., London, as to the alleged piracy of three of the narratives in the Sequel No. 2 to the Second Book of Lessons, from a work of which they possess a copyright, and which is to the effect, that the Copyright Act has been infringed by the publication of the stories referred to; and that, as the Sequel No. 2 has been sold from time to time, every such sale is the subject of an action.

The Secretary also reads a letter (2,075/58), from Mr. A. Thom, stating that he has received a communication from Messrs. Groombridge & Sons, London, acquainting him that Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co. have called upon that firm, to refrain from selling any more copies of the Sequel No. 2, pending the result of legal proceedings about to be taken in the matter.

Mr. Thom suggests that the stories of which Messrs. Smith & Elder hold the copyright, be omitted from all future editions of the Sequel No. 2, that a re-arrangement of the two Sequels be made, and that the places of the portions so expunged, be supplied by Lessons 23, 24 and 25, transferred from Sequel No. 1.

 Ordered,

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Ordered, that Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co. be informed that the Commissioners regret the compiler of the Sequel No. 2, should have introduced into it the narratives in question; that he has no recollection of having ever seen the work from which it is alleged the stories were pirated, that the Sequel was first published in 1843, and ever since that period has been on the lists of the Irish National School Books, which were in extensive circulation among publishers and patrons of schools in every part of the United Kingdom. The Commissioners, therefore, feel much surprised that, after a lapse of 14 years, their attention should now, for the first time, be called to an alleged act of piracy: and had they sooner been made aware of the circumstances, they would have omitted the stories from their work, if the publishers of the "Parents' Cabinet" had so desired. Messrs. Smith & Elder are to be further informed that the Commissioners have given instructions to their printer to expunge the three narratives referred to from any future edition of the Sequel No. 2; and, as there is an edition of the work in the press, they request to be favoured with Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co.'s views on the matter before Friday next the 16th instant.

Ordered further, that instructions be issued to Mr. Falconer to omit the three narratives from the Sequel No. 2, in all future editions of that work, and to stop the printing of the edition now going through the press, until further notice.

Ordered also, that Mr. Thom's suggestion as to the transfer of the Lessons 23, 24 and 25, from Sequel No. 1 to Sequel No. 2, be approved, and that he be requested to forward copies of each work, altered in the manner proposed.

4. Minute, dated 16 April 1858.

Read letter, 2,120, from Messrs. Rowland and Hacon, Solicitors, Fenchurch-street, London, stating that they have been instructed by Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., to institute legal proceedings against the Commissioners for an alleged invasion of their copyright, by the publication of the three narratives in the Sequel No. 2, taken from a work called the "Parents' Cabinet," and requesting to be furnished with the names of the Board's solicitors in London, in order that the usual legal process may be served upon them.

Ordered, that Messrs. Rowland and Hacon be informed, that the Commissioners have no solicitors in London; that their solicitors in this country are Messrs. Geale and Dwyer, 73, Marlboro-street, Dublin, and that they have been instructed to appear to any process that may be issued out of any of the Irish law courts.

Read letter 2,178, from Messrs. Groombridge and Sons, London, stating that they have been threatened with legal proceedings by Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., for selling the Sequel No. 2 to the "Second Book of Lessons," and requesting, under the circumstances, to be favoured with the views of the Commissioners on the matter.

Ordered, that the Messrs. Groombridge & Sons be informed of the purport of the communication ordered by Minute of the Board of the last day of meeting to be addressed to Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., on this subject; also, of the suggestion of Mr. Thom with reference to the exclusion of the narratives objected to from the Sequel No. 2, and the substitution therefore of other lessons taken from the Sequel No. 1, and which has been approved.

Read letter, No. 2,162/58, from Mr. J. Falconer, acknowledging receipt of the order of the Board of the last day of meeting with regard to the Sequels Nos. 1 and 2, and stating that he will not proceed with the issue of any more copies from the press, until furnished with a copy of each of the Sequels, as they are, in future, to be printed.

The Secretary lays before the Commissioners a new edition of the Sequels Nos. 1 and 2, from the latter of which the lessons referred to by Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., have been expunged, and others, from the Sequel No. 1, substituted in accordance with the suggestion of Mr. A. Thom.

Ordered, that they be approved; that Mr. Falconer be directed to print a supply for the use of the National Schools; and that Mr. Thom be informed of this decision.

5. Minute, dated 6 August 1858.

Read letter, No. 3,635/58, from Mr. J. Falconer, proposing to take 25,500 cancelled copies of the Sequel No. 2, now remaining in store, as waste paper, at 20 *s.* per cwt., and stating that care will be taken that they do not get into improper hands.

Ordered, that this proposal be accepted, on the above understanding.

6. Minute, dated 10 September 1858.

Read letter, No. 4,981/58, from Messrs. Groombridge and Sons, London, stating that the action at law commenced against them by Messrs. Smith and Elder, for an infringement of copyright, in selling the Sequel No. 2, has been withdrawn, on their paying the legal expenses, amounting to 19 *l.* 5 *s.*, and submitting for the consideration of the Commissioners the propriety of being re-imbursed this sum.

Ordered, that, under the circumstances, the sum of 19 *l.* 5 *s.* be paid the Messrs. Groombridge.

7. Minute,

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7. MINUTE, dated 1 October 1858.

Read letter, No. 5,521/58, from Messrs. Groombridge, of London, stating, in reply to the Secretary's letter of the 15th September, that the 323 copies of the Sequel No. 2, returned by them, were purchased from Her Majesty's Stationery Office in Dublin.

Ordered, that the Messrs. Groombridge be allowed the value of the books returned, 4 *l.* 0 *s.* 9 *d.*, as they were purchased as above.

No. 3.—EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Board of National Education, declining to place on the list a work called "Parallel History of the Kings of Judah and Israel."

1. MINUTE, dated 17 September 1858.

Read letter, No. 5,432/58, from the Rev. E. Fowle, Annesbury, Wilts, forwarding, for perusal, the manuscript of a "Parallel History of the Kings of Judah and Israel," and requesting to be informed if the Board would be disposed to place it on the list of books sanctioned for use in the National Schools.

Ordered, that the Secretary be directed to return to the Rev. Mr. Fowle the thanks of the Commissioners for his kindness in submitting the manuscript for their perusal; but that he be informed that they do not consider it expedient to place the work on their list for use in the National Schools.

No. 4.—EXTRACTS from Minutes of the Board of National Education, regarding the publication of a "Chronological History."

1. MINUTE, dated 19 November 1858.

The attention of the Board is called to the expediency of publishing a class book on Chronological History.

Ordered, that this subject be taken into consideration at the next special meeting; and that, in the meantime, some of the most approved works of the class alluded to be procured, for reference.

2. MINUTE, dated 10 December 1858.

In compliance with the terms of Minute of the Board of the 19th ult., the Commissioners proceed to consider the propriety of compiling a "Chronological History" for use of National Schools, and the Secretary lays before them some works of that character.

Ordered, that the Commissioners consider it expedient to publish a class book on this subject in a compendious form, suited for use in National Schools during the hours of united instruction; and that the Resident Commissioner be requested to name, at a future meeting of the Board, the person whom, after due inquiry, he may consider best qualified to undertake the compilation of the work in question.

No. 5.—EXTRACT from Minutes of the Board of National Education, regarding the proposal to sanction "Young's Outlines of History of Ireland" for use in the National Schools.

MINUTE, dated 11 February 1859.

Read letter, No. 900/59, from Alderman John Reynold's, submitting a work entitled "Outlines of History of Ireland," by Townsend Young, LL.D., and expressing an opinion that it might, with propriety, be sanctioned for use in the National Schools.

Ordered, that the Professors be requested to make a joint Report as to the suitability of the work for use in National Schools; and that Mr. Reynold's be informed that the Commissioners will consider the question as to whether its employment as a work for united instruction can be sanctioned by the Board.

No. 6.—EXTRACTS from Minutes of the Board of National Education, authorising purchase of copies of the "Hand Book of the Model Farm, Glasnevin."

1. MINUTE, dated 29 April 1859.

Read letter, No. 2, from Mr. T. Baldwin, Agricultural Clerk, submitting a copy of the "Hand Book of the Model Farm, Glasnevin," of which he is the author, and expressing a hope that the Commissioners will purchase a number of copies, for distribution amongst the agricultural schools.

Ordered, that 150 copies be purchased, for the purpose stated, at 1 *s.* per copy.

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2. MINUTE, dated 21 June 1861.

Ordered, That, as suggested by the Agricultural Inspector, 200 copies of the new edition of the "Hand Book to the Model Farm, Glasnevin, and of Agricultural Education in Ireland," by Mr. Thomas Baldwin, be purchased at 9 *d.* a copy, for distribution amongst the pupils, and for presentation to visitors to the institution.

No. 7. EXTRACT from Minutes of Board of National Education, authorising purchase of copies of the "Essay on Soils."

MINUTE, dated 24 June 1859.

READ letter, 1839/59, from Dr. Kirkpatrick, submitting an "Essay on Soils," written by Mr. Baldwin, of the Albert Institution; and suggesting that a copy be presented to the literary teachers trained in the last class, as well as to the masters of the model agricultural schools throughout the country.

Ordered, That 200 copies of the work be purchased, at 6 *d.* a copy, for distribution in the manner proposed.

No. 8. EXTRACTS from Minutes of Board of National Education, regarding corrections in the "Fourth Book of Lessons."

1. MINUTE, dated 23 September 1859.

READ letter, No. 5793/59, from Mr. A. Thom, Abbey Street, forwarding a communication addressed to him by the Committee of Council on Education, pointing out certain inaccuracies in the geographical portion of the "Fourth Book of Lessons"; and submitting, for the approval of the Board, the corrections which have been made in consequence of that communication in order that they may be embodied in the next edition of the work.

Ordered, That the proposed corrections be submitted to the professors, with a request that they will state their opinion respecting them for the information of the Board.

2. MINUTE, dated 7 October 1859.

Read letter, No. 6127/59, from the professors, expressing their approval of the corrections in the geographical portion of the Board's "Fourth Book of Lessons," as suggested by the Committee of Council on Education, in a letter to Mr. A. Thom, and by him submitted for the consideration of the Commissioners.

Ordered, That the proposed corrections be approved by the Board, and embodied in the edition of the work now going through the press.

No. 9.—EXTRACTS from Minutes of Board of National Education regarding inaccuracies in the First Book of Arithmetic and Key, and the payment made for pointing them out, &c.

1. MINUTE, dated 18 November 1859.

READ letter, No. 6973/59, from Mr. R. W. Healy, Essex-street, Dublin, calling attention to several inaccuracies which he has noticed in the First Arithmetic and Key; suggesting a complete revision of those works, and offering his services to effect that object.

Ordered, That the thanks of the Commissioners be conveyed to Mr. Healy for having brought under their notice the subject to which his communication refers; that he be informed the Commissioners are not, at present, prepared to remodel the works in question, but that, as regards the correction of any errors, the Commissioners are always glad to consider suggestions to that effect, provided they are made by competent parties.

With reference to the list of errors which Mr. Healy has forwarded, the Commissioners direct that he be furnished with the latest editions of the Arithmetic and Key, and informed that they will be happy to consider any inaccuracies contained therein, which may be pointed out to them, and to test such corrections as may be suggested.

2. MINUTE, dated 30 December 1859.

Read letter, No. 8156/59, from Mr. R. W. Healy, Essex-street, in reference to the Minute of the Board of the 18th November, in reply to a previous communication, calling attention to a number of inaccuracies which, he stated, he had discovered in the Board's First Arithmetic and Key; and forwarding a detailed list of the errors and misprints contained in those works, together with such corrections as appeared to him necessary in each case.

Ordered, That the Professors be requested to give instructions to a suitable person, connected with the Central Model Schools, to examine this list, and to test the accuracy of the corrections made by Mr. Healy.

3. MINUTE,

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3. MINUTE, dated 3 February 1860.

Read letter, No. 940/60, from Professor Sullivan, in reference to the alleged inaccuracies and misprints in the Board's First Arithmetic and Key, as pointed out by Mr. R. W. Healy, in letter No. 8156/59, and transmitting a memorandum from Mr. Larkin, Head Master of the Central Model School, stating that, having examined the works in question, he finds that a considerable number of the apparent errors pointed out by Mr. Healy are the result of misapprehension on his part, and have no real existence, and that corrections are required to be made only in a very few cases. Mr. Larkin further suggests the propriety of having the Arithmetic carefully revised by a competent person.

Ordered, That Mr. Larkin be authorized to correct for the press such errors as he may have discovered in the Arithmetic. And that the general revision of the work be postponed for the present.

4. MINUTE, dated 27 March 1861.

Read letter, No. 912/61, from Mr. R. W. Healy, claiming compensation for his trouble in pointing out certain errors in the Board's First Book of Arithmetic and Key. Read also letter, No. 2045/61, from the Professors, stating, in reply to the Secretary's letter of the 9th February, 1861, requesting them to report as to the extent of the corrections proposed by Mr. Healy, and made in the books by the late Mr. Larkin, and also as to the amount of compensation (if any) to which they deem Mr. Healy entitled; that he appears to have taken great pains in going through the books, and that several of his corrections have been actually adopted, &c. Also that, all circumstances considered, they deem that 15 *l.* or 20 *l.* would be reasonable compensation for Mr. Healy's services.

Ordered, That Mr. Healy be awarded 20 *l.*, and that he be informed that the Commissioners had no idea of employing him to correct the works in question. But, as they find that he took some trouble in the matter, they have voted him this sum as a compliment.

No. 10.—EXTRACT from Minutes of Board of National Education, agreeing to take new, improved, and enlarged edition of "Sullivan's English Dictionary."

1. MINUTE, dated 13 January 1860.

READ letter, No. 46/60, from Professor Sullivan, submitting, for the inspection of the Commissioners, a copy of a new, improved, and enlarged edition of his dictionary of the English languages, and stating that his publishers, Messrs. Marcus and John Sullivan, are prepared to supply it to the Commissioners for the use of the National Schools, at 1 *s.* 7 *d.* per copy, being an advance of one penny on the price of the last edition, Dr. Sullivan adds, that the new edition contains two sheets more than the old, and is to be supplied bound in coloured cloth instead of grey linen.

Ordered, That Dr. Sullivan be informed, that the Commissioners are willing to purchase such supplies of the work in question as they may, from time to time, require, on the terms stated in this communication.

No. 11—EXTRACT from Minutes of the Board of National Education, authorising certain alterations in the "Tablet Reading Lessons."

1. MINUTE, dated 20 January 1860.

READ letter, 3026/59, from the Professors, enclosing a communication addressed to them by Mr. T. U. Young, in which he suggests that the series of tablet reading lessons be printed in larger type; the type in which they are, at present, printed being so small as to be illegible at the required distance.

Read also letter, 7904/59, from Mr. Lawrence, storekeeper, stating, that by the proposed arrangement, the number of sheets in the set will be increased from 36 to 68, owing to the difference in the size of the type used, and submitting the propriety of having the series divided into two parts to be sold separately, at the reduced price charged for the set of 36.

Ordered, That the tablet sheets be divided into two parts, each to be sold at the old rates, viz., 4 *d.* in sheets, and 3 *s.* 3 *d.* on mill board. Managers to have the privilege of getting both parts in free stock.

No. 12.—EXTRACTS from Minutes of the Board of National Education, regarding the division of the "Lectures on Natural Philosophy" into three volumes, instead of one, &c.

1. MINUTE, dated 30 March 1860.

READ letter, 2260/60, from Messrs. Thom and Sons, suggesting that the "Lectures on Natural Philosophy," heretofore issued by the Board in one large volume, be divided into three

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three convenient parts or volumes, uniform in size and binding with the reading books, and capable of being distributed or sold as required, either together or separately. The proposed divisions to be as follows:—

1. Mechanics and the Steam Engine, (about 200 pages).

2. Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, &c. (about 300 pages).

3. Chemistry, (about 400 pages).

Messrs. Thom and Son also submit a specimen of the manner in which it is proposed to print the "Natural Philosophy," should their suggestion be approved, and state that it is not intended that the printing of the work in three volumes should entail on the Board any expense beyond the contract price of the single 8vo. volume, provided 2,500 copies be taken, while the arrangement would enable the Commissioners to reduce the price to their schools to 6 *d.* per volume, or 1 *s.* 6*d.* for the complete set, instead of 3 *s.* as at present.

Ordered, That Messrs. Thom and Son be informed, that the Commissioners approve of the division of the "Natural Philosophy" into three parts, as suggested; that they will be prepared to take 2,500 sets at the contract price of the 8vo. volume, and that they be sold to the National Schools at 6 *d.* per part, or 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for the complete work.

2. Minute, dated 27 April 1860.

Read letter, No. 2802/60, from Messrs. Thom and Son, enclosing proof of the new edition of the Board's work on "Natural Philosophy," vol i., Mechanics, &c., and suggesting that the sheets be revised by some competent person in the training department. Also recommending that a sum of 25 *l.* be paid to Mr. Larkin for his services in correcting the errors in the Board's Arithmetic (B. O. 30, 12, 59.)

Ordered, That Mr. Thom be informed, that it is understood the reading of the proofs forms part of his duty, and that the Commissioners have, on reconsideration, arrived at the conclusion that the following would be a better arrangement of the subjects comprising the "Natural Philosophy" than that proposed in his letter of the 26th March, and sanctioned by Minute of 30th of same month.

1st part, or volume—To consist of Mechanics, Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, and Optics.

2d part—Electricity, Galvanism, Magnetism, Electro-Magnetism, Heat and the Steam Engine.

3d part—Chemistry, Organic, and Inorganic.

Ordered, also, That Mr. Larkin be paid 10 *l.* for correcting the Arithmetic and Key.

No. 13.—Extracts from Minutes of Board of National Education, regarding a proposal to supply the Commissioners with a "History of the English Language."

1. Minute, dated 22 June 1860.

Read Letter, 4067/60, from Mr. A. H. Keane, Licentiate in Letters, Catholic University, submitting a work written by him on the History of the English Language, and stating that, if it meet with the approval of the Board, he will be prepared to supply it on liberal terms.

Ordered, That Mr. Keane be informed that the Commissioners decline to place his book on the list of works sanctioned for use in the National Schools, conceiving that it is not required. But, as the teachers in training may derive some benefit from its perusal, the Commissioners will be prepared to purchase 150 copies for presentation to the next class, on his stating the lowest terms on which they can be obtained.

2. Minute, dated 13 July 1860.

Read letter, No. 4747, from A. H. Keane, Esq., stating, in reply to the inquiry directed by Minute of the Board of the 22d. ult., that he is willing to let the Commissioners have 150 copies of his Work on the English Language at the rate of 1 *s.* a copy.

Ordered, That 150 copies be purchased at the price stated.

No. 14.—Extract from Minutes of the Board of National Education, authorising purchase of copies of an "Essay on Manures."

1. Minute, dated 3 August 1860.

Ordered, in accordance with suggestion of Dr. Kirkpatrick, that 500 copies of an "Essay on Manures," by Mr. Baldwin, be purchased for the use of the pupils in the Albert Agricultural Institution and the minor Agricultural Schools, at the rate of 4 *d.* a copy; amount 8 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.*

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No. 15.—EXTRACT from Minutes of Board of National Education, relating to some corrections, &c., proposed to be made in the "Epitome of Geography."

MINUTE, dated 21 June 1861.

READ letter, No. 4016/61, from Messrs. Thom and Son, sending proofsheets of the "Summary of States and Empires," Book V. of the "Epitome of Geography," and submitting certain corrections which they have made therein respecting mattere of fact, which, they state, the course of time has rendered necessary.

Ordered, That the Messrs. Thom be informed that, as it is intended to revise the whole of the "Epitome of Geography" at an early date, it is not deemed advisable to make the proposed alterations and additions in the edition which they are now printing; but that, if there be any corrections merely which they may consider necessary, they should submit the proofsheets in the usual way for the consideration of the Board.

No. 16.—EXTRACTS from the Minutes of the Board of National Education in Ireland, regarding Master Murphy's suggestion for the revision of the National School Books; and modification of his Resolution, proposed by the Rev. John Hall, and approved.

1. MINUTE, dated 27 June 1861.

MASTER MURPHY gives notice that he will move the following resolution at the next meeting of the Board, namely, on the 5th July 1861:—

Resolved, That the school books of the Board shall be revised, so as to make them in accordance with the present state of knowledge, and still more acceptable than they now are to the people of Ireland; and that a committee be forthwith appointed, for the purpose of enabling the Board to carry this resolution into effect.

2. MINUTE, dated 5 July 1861.

Agreeably to the notice given at the last day of meeting, Master Murphy sends his resolution, as set forth in the proceedings of that day.

Ordered, That the consideration of this resolution be postponed until the next meeting.

3. MINUTE, dated 12 July 1861.

Master Murphy again brings forward his resolution, of which he gave notice on the 27th June, and the consideration of which was postponed on the 5th inst., viz., That the school books of the Board shall be revised, so as to make them in accordance with the present state of knowledge, and still more acceptable than they now are to the people of Ireland; and that a committee be forthwith appointed, for the purpose of enabling the Board to carry this resolution into effect.

Ordered, That the consideration of this resolution be postponed for the present.

4. MINUTE, dated 27 September 1861.

The Secretary submits the resolution proposed by Master Murphy at the meeting of the Board on the 12th July, and the consideration of which was then postponed, viz., That the school books of the Board shall be revised, so as to make them in accordance with the present state of knowledge, and still more acceptable than they now are to the people of Ireland; and that a committee be forthwith appointed, for the purpose of enabling the Board to carry this resolution into effect.

The following modification of the above resolution is proposed by the Rev. John Hall, viz., That the school books of the Board shall be revised, so as that, without interference with their general character, or departure from the fundamental principles of the system of National Education, they be made in accordance with the present state of knowledge, and still more acceptable than they now are to the people of Ireland; and that a committee be forthwith appointed, for the purpose of enabling the Board to carry this resolution into effect.

Ordered, That the above resolution be brought under the notice of the Commissioners at the next special meeting, namely, the 10th October, with a view to the appointment of a committee, or the adoption of such other steps as may be necessary.

5. MINUTE, dated 10 October 1861.

Pursuant to the orders of the Board of the 27th September, the Secretary brings under the notice of the Commissioners the following modification, proposed by the Rev. John Hall, of the resolution submitted by Master Murphy at the meeting of the Board of the 12th July, and the consideration of which was then postponed:—

That the school books of the Board shall be revised, so as that, without interference with their general character or departure from the fundamental principles of the system of National Education, they may be made in accordance with the present state of knowledge, and still more acceptable than they now are to the people of Ireland; and that a committee be forthwith appointed, for the purpose of enabling the Board to carry this resolution into effect.

Ordered, That the Commissioners approve of the modified resolution as above, and that the

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the following members of the Board do constitute a committee, to report as to the best means of carrying the resolution into effect:—Judge Longfield, Rev. J. Hall, R. Andrews, Esq., James Gibson, Esq., Laurence Waldron, Esq., J. Lentaigne, Esq., John O'Hagan, Esq., and Right Honourable A. Macdonnell.

6. Minute, dated 20 December 1861.

Ordered, That the Committee appointed to carry into effect the resolution relating to the revision of the Board's books be summoned to meet on Monday, the 30th instant, at 11 o'clock.

7. Minute, dated 24 January 1862.

Ordered, That the Committee appointed to carry into effect the resolution relating to the revision of the Board's books be summoned to meet on Monday, the 27th instant, at four o'clock.

8. Minute, dated 18 April 1862.

The Commissioners consider the propriety of appointing Mr. Henry P. Clarke to act as Clerk and Literary Assistant to the Book Committee lately appointed by the Board; his salary to be at the rate of 120 *l.* a-year, commencing from the 24th March 1862. The Secretary reminds the Commissioners of the letter (9224/61) received from the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, dated 28th December 1861, stating that no charge for the salary of any officer can be defrayed by the public without the previous sanction of their Lordships to the appointment and rate of remuneration at which such officer is to be paid.

Ordered, That a letter be written to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, stating that the Commissioners deem it advisable to employ Mr. Clarke, as above stated, at the salary mentioned, and requesting that their Lordships may be pleased to sanction the appointment.

9. Minute, dated 18 April 1862.

Ordered, That the Committee appointed to carry into effect the resolution relating to the revision of the Board's books be summoned to meet on Wednesday next, the 23d instant, at half-past three o'clock.

10. Minute, dated 25 April 1862.

Read letter, No. 60 (of 1861), from Mr. W. MacDermott, Inspector of District 38, offering a variety of remarks on the subject of the intended revision of the Board's books; particularly in matters where a doubt may be involved, or a more perfect explanation of the subject is required. Mr. MacDermott especially calls attention to some portions of the Scripture Lessons and Third Book of Lessons, and proposes that there should be added to the existing series some suitable class-books on the Histories of England, Rome, and Greece, as well as on Natural History, and some other subjects.

Ordered, That Mr. MacDermott's letter be submitted at the next meeting of the Book Committee, with a request to report thereon.

11. Minute, dated 30 May 1882.

Read letter, No. 4120/82, from the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, pointing out the items which have either been omitted or reduced in the Estimate for National Education for the year 1882/3; and stating that, on the representation made in the Secretary's letter of the 24th April, their Lordships have sanctioned the payment of 10 *l.* a-month to Mr. H. P. Clarke, while engaged to assist in the revision of the National School books; but that, with regard to the remaining portion of the sum of 1,000 *l.* asked for that service, their Lordships require more detailed information as to the proposed manner of expending that sum.

The Secretary submits a memorandum which has been drawn up, explanatory of the increased items and of the manner in which it is proposed to expend the sum required for the revision of the books.

Ordered, That the memorandum, be approved, and transmitted to the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, and that he be informed that the Commissioners hope that, on a perusal of it, his Excellency will feel warranted in recommending the Lords of the Treasury to put forward a supplementary estimate, including all the items referred to in the memorandum.

12. Minute, dated 11 July 1862.

Reference is made to the Board's Minute of the 16th of April last, proposing to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury that Mr. Henry P. Clarke should be appointed Literary Assistant in the revision of the National School books, at a salary of 10 *l.* a-month; also to letter 4120/62, signifying that their Lordships have sanctioned the proposed arrangement.

Ordered, That Mr. Clarke be now paid at the above-mentioned rate from the date of his appointment, viz., 24th March 1862.

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No. 17.—EXTRACTS from Minutes of Board of National Education, regarding a proposal to supply Commissioners with a "Treatise on Trigonometry."

1. MINUTE, dated 5 July 1861.

READ letter, No. 4261/61, from Professor Butler, stating that he has written a work entitled, "Lessons on Trigonometry," which he asks to have placed on the list of books for use in the National Schools; and proposing to supply the work in sheets, at the rate of 1½ *d.* a sheet.

Ordered, That Professor Butler be informed that, in a short time, the Commissioners will have before them the whole question as to the revision of the National School books; and that, meanwhile, they are not prepared to take into consideration the proposal contained in his letter.

2. MINUTE, dated 14 March 1862.

Read letter, No. 2065/62, from Professor Butler, inquiring whether, pending the decision on his application to place his "Treatise on Trigonometry" on the Board's list of books, the Commissioners will supply copies of the work to the teachers in training, at 2 *s.* a copy.

Ordered, That a copy of Professor Butler's work be procured for each teacher in training who is studying trigonometry, and that the Professor be applied to for a return of the number of such teachers.

3. MINUTE, dated 3 October 1862.

Presented requisition from the Training Class (male) for 90 copies of Professor Butler's "Lessons on Trigonometry."

Ordered, That the books applied for be supplied.

No. 18.—EXTRACT from Minutes of the Board of National Education, declining the offer of Johnston's "School Arithmetic."

MINUTE, dated 2 August 1861.

READ letter, No. 5124/61. from Mr. Robert Johnston, of the Endowed School, Swords, sending a copy of the "School Arithmetic," lately published by him, and proposing that the Commissioners should add it to the list of books sanctioned for use in the National Schools.

Ordered, That Mr. Johnston be informed that the Commissioners do not deem it requisite to have another treatise on Arithmetic in addition to those which are already on their list.

No. 19.—EXTRACTS from Minutes of Board of National Education, regarding proposed purchase of work on the "Roots of Words, &c.," from Dean Hoare.

1. MINUTE, dated 28 March 1862.

THE Solicitor General (Mr. Lawson) gives notice that, at the next meeting, he will move that the Commissioners do purchase 200 copies of Dean Hoare's work on the "Roots of Words, &c.," at 3 *s.* a copy, for distribution amongst the teachers in training.

2. MINUTE, dated 8 April 1862.

Agreeably to the notice given on the 28th March, the Solicitor General (Mr. Lawson) moves that the Commissioners do purchase 200 copies of Dean Hoare's work on "Roots of Words, &c.," at 3 *s.* a copy, for distribution amongst the teachers in training.

Ordered, That the Commissioners approve of the foregoing proposal.

3. MINUTE, dated 2 January 1863.

Ordered, That 200 copies of Dean Hoare's work (third edition) on "English Roots, and the Derivation of Words from the Anglo-Saxon," be purchased at 3 *s.* a copy, for distribution amongst the teachers in training.

No. 20.—EXTRACT from Minutes of the Board of National Education, accepting proposal for the supply of work called, "Structure and Physiology of the Animals of the Farm."

MINUTE, dated 25 July 1862.

ORDERED, That the Commissioners accept the proposal of Dr. Hodges, of Belfast, to supply 300 copies of his work on the "Structure and Physiology of the Animals of the Farm," at 1 *s.* per copy. The book to be distributed only as the Commissioners may direct.

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No. 21.—EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Board of National Education, authorising the purchase of copies of Joyce's "Handbook of School Management."

MINUTE, dated 13 March 1863.

READ letter, 1950/63, from the Professors, recommending that a copy of Mr. Joyce's work, entitled "Handbook of School Management," be given to each of the teachers in training, to the number of 200.

Ordered, That 200 copies of the book be purchased from Mr. Joyce, for distribution, as proposed.

No. 22.—EXTRACTS from Minutes of Board of National Education, regarding Dean Hoare's offer of his work on "Philology."

1. MINUTE, dated 10 April 1863.

READ letter, 2191/63, from the Very Rev. the Dean of Waterford, forwarding prospectus of his new work on "Philology," now preparing for publication, and requesting the Board to purchase some copies at 3 *s.* a copy in sheets.

Ordered, That Dean Hoare be informed that the Commissioners regret that they cannot comply with his request, as they consider the subject of his work already sufficiently treated of in the Board's books.

2. MINUTE, dated 4 December 1863.

Read letter, 9284/63, from the Very Rev. Dean Hoare, sending copy of his new work on "Philology," and offering to supply it at 3 *s.* a copy in sheets, or 3 *s.* 4 *d.* bound in cloth.

Ordered, That Dean Hoare's letter and book be referred to the Professors, who are to be requested to state their opinion on the work, and whether they would recommend copies to be purchased for presentation to the teachers in training.

3. MINUTE, dated 18 December 1863.

Read letter, No. 9754/63, from the Professors, stating, in reply to the Board's order of the 4th inst., asking their opinion on Dean Hoare's work on "Philology," and inquiring if they would recommend it to be bought for the teachers in training, that, considering the very comprehensive manner in which the subjects of the work are treated in the Board's books, and also that the time of the teachers in training is already fully occupied, they see no advantage in presenting them with the work; but that, as the members of the special class are now instructed in the elements of Latin, they (the Professors) think that the work might, with propriety, be given to those teachers at the end of the course, for which purpose they recommend 50 copies to be purchased.

Ordered, That the consideration of Dean Hoare's proposal be postponed to the next meeting.

4. MINUTE, dated 31 December 1863.

The Secretary again submits Dean Hoare's proposal (9284/63) to supply his work on "Philology," together with the Professors' opinion regarding it (9754/63), as read at Board, at the last meeting.

Ordered, That the consideration of this matter be again deferred.

5. MINUTE, dated 8 January 1864.

Read letter, No. 9754/63, from the Professors, stating, in reply to the Board's order of the 4th ultimo, asking their opinion on Dean Hoare's work on "Philology," and inquiring if they would recommend the book to be purchased for the teachers in training, that, considering the very comprehensive manner in which the subjects of the Dean's work are treated in the Board's books, and that the time of the teachers in training is already fully occupied, they see no advantage in presenting them with the work; but that, as the members of the special class are now taught the elements of Latin, they (the Professors) think that the work might, with propriety, be given to them at the end of the course, for which purpose they recommend 50 copies to be purchased.

Ordered, That the suggestion of the Professors, as to presenting the work to the special class teachers, be not approved; and that Dean Hoare be informed that the Commissioners do not feel disposed to order copies of his book, as proposed, the time of the teachers, while in training, being fully occupied with the course of study already prescribed for them, including the subjects of his work, which, it is thought, are sufficiently treated of in the National School books.

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No. 23.—EXTRACT from Minutes of the Board of National Education, authorising purchase of copies of Pamphlet called, "Directions for the Proper Management of the Flax Crop."

MINUTE, dated 17 April 1863.

ORDERED, On the suggestion of the Agricultural Inspector, that 2,000 copies of the pamphlet called "Directions for the Proper Management of the Flax Crop," be purchased from Mr. Thom, at a cost of 2 *l.* 10 *s.*, for distribution in the Agricultural Schools.

No. 24.—EXTRACT from Minutes of Board of National Education, declining the offer of Johnston's "Civil Service Arithmetic."

MINUTE, dated 29 January 1864.

READ Letter, No. 10,105/63, from Robert Johnston, Esq., of the School, Swords, inclosing a prospectus of his "Civil Service Arithmetic," and asking the Board to order a number of copies for the teachers in training, or masters in the model schools.

Ordered, That Mr. Johnston be informed that the Commissioners must decline to comply with his request, having on their lists three works on arithmetic, which they deem sufficient for the wants of their teachers.

No. 25.—EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Board of National Education, regarding a Work on School Architecture offered to the Commissioners.

MINUTE, dated 15 April 1864.

READ Letter, No. 95, from Mr. R. Robinson, Inspector District 52, offering for the acceptance of the Board a work which he has written on the subject of school architecture.

Ordered, that the manuscript of Mr. Robinson's work, with the accompanying plans, be submitted to Mr. Owen, of the Board of Works; and that he be informed that it has been proposed to the Commissioners to circulate the work amongst the managers of national schools; most of whom are imperfectly acquainted with the subject of school architecture. Also, that the Commissioners will feel obliged if he will favour them with his opinion as to the suitability of the book for the purpose mentioned.

No. 26.—EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Board of National Education, directing that a new Class Book of Agricultural Subjects shall be prepared, for use in the ordinary rural National Schools.

MINUTE, dated 15 April 1864.

THE Honourable Judge Longfield submits a paper in which he recommends that another agricultural class book should be written for the instruction of the pupils in the Board's ordinary rural schools, and that a qualified person should be selected to prepare such a work, on the following conditions:—

1. The book should be capable of being printed in good type, in about 250 pages, 12mo., the size of the "Fifth Book of Lessons"; such as might be sold by the bookseller to the public for not more than 1 *s.* The Board might sell it to the children in their schools for 4 *d.*

2. The legally established weights and measures should alone be used through the book, and a table added to explain the weights and measures used locally, so far as it may be useful to the farmer to know them.

3. The different kinds of crops that may be profitably grown in Ireland must be described, together with the soil best suited to each, the best season and manner to prepare the ground for them, the relative advantages of different kinds and quantities of manure for each crop, the time of planting and gathering, and the best rotation of crops for every soil and situation.

4. The book should point out the readiest and simplest mode of ascertaining the quantity, quality, and value of every crop in its different stages, so as to enable the husbandman to form frequent and accurate calculations of the probable results of his industry.

5. It should give a detailed account of the probable expense of raising each crop, distinguishing

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tinguishing labour, manure, seed, farm implements, and all other expenses incident to the due cultivation of the farm.

6. It should also state the average amount and value of each crop per acre, according to the quality of the land and the mode of cultivation.

7. It should describe and explain the different kinds of farm implements, showing the profitable mode of using them, and the probable expense of purchasing them, and keeping them in repair.

8. It should describe and explain such improvements as may be made on a farm, at a moderate expense, and contain calculations showing within what period an adequate return might be expected for the outlay.

9. It should describe the different breeds of cattle, and the kinds best adapted to each soil and situation; and the best modes of rearing, tending, valuing, buying, and selling every kind of stock.

10. It should illustrate, by a plate, the different kinds of grasses that may be grown, with profit, in Ireland; tell the name of each, the best mode of cultivating it, and the soil and situation in which each kind can be most profitably cultivated.

11. It should contain a chapter on the cultivation of flax, and the several processes which it must undergo, before it is ready to be made into yarn.

12. It should contain a chapter on the kitchen garden, and the various vegetables which a small farmer can conveniently and profitably cultivate.

13. The book should be written with a view to the practical and profitable instruction of the class of farmers, whose rents vary from 15*l.* to 60*l.* a-year. The object is, especially to improve the most ignorant. The author, therefore, should not aim at any depths of science, but confine himself to pointing out the evil consequences of the vicious modes of cultivation now in use, and to advice and information within the means and capacities of small farmers to follow and comprehend.

One hundred pounds might be offered to the author, with an expectation of an equal sum if the work should succeed, and if the Board should employ the author to superintend a second edition.

Ordered, That Judge Longfield's recommendation be approved, and that Mr. Thomas Baldwin, of the Albert Model Farm, be employed to write the new "Agricultural Class Book" on the terms proposed, and also, according to the plan laid down in Judge Longfield's paper.

— II. —

NAMES of the PARTIES to whom the actual Writing, Revision, or Editing of the NEW WORKS has been entrusted, with a Statement of the Titles of the Works, and the Progress made towards their Publication.

No. 1.—STATEMENT of the Persons entrusted with the Revision, &c., of the New Books, and of the Titles of the Books.

THE revision or editing of the ordinary reading lesson books is carried on under the general superintendence of the entire Board, but particularly of the members of the Book Committee appointed on the 10th October 1861. As proofs are prepared, a copy is sent round to each Commissioner for his perusal and remarks. The Book Committee is assisted in its labours by the principal officers of the Board, namely, the two Secretaries, James Kelly, Esq., and William M'Creedy, Esq., and the two Chiefs of Inspection, Patrick J. Keenan, Esq., and W. H. Newell, Esq., L.L.D. The work of transcribing the lessons approved of by the Committee for selection is executed by Mr. Henry P. Clarke, who has been appointed clerk to the Book Committee.

The revision of the technical or more scientific works, such as the Arithmetics Nos. I. and II., the treatise on Mensuration, and the Manuals of Natural Philosophy, has been entrusted to Mr. Edward Butler, one of the Professors.

The following Artists, Engravers, and Printers are engaged, viz.:—

Artists.—E. Fitzpatrick, Esq., Associate of the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin; William Frederick Wakeman, Esq., Blackrock, Dublin.

Engravers.—Mr. Wm. Oldham, Rathgar, Dublin; Mrs. Caroline Millard, Harcourt-street, Dublin; Messrs. Dalziell, Brothers, London.

Printers.—Mr. Alexander Thom, Abbey-street, Dublin; Mr. J. Falconer, Sackville-street, Dublin.

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No. 2.—STATEMENT of the Progress made towards the Publication of the Revised Books.

THE following Books have been finally approved of by the Board, and are now prepared for the press, viz. :—

I.—First Reading Book for the use of schools. Part I. being the beginner's first steps in reading.

II.—First Reading Book for the use of schools; part II.

III. Second Reading Book for the use of Schools.

The Third Reading Book for the use of schools (being the fourth work in the series) is now in proof, and under the consideration of the Board, for final approval.

The entire of the lessons intended to constitute the Fourth Reading Book, are completed, but are still in manuscript. It is hoped, however, that they will be sent to the printers, in a few weeks.

— III. —

CORRESPONDENCE between the Board of Guardians of the Ballinasloe Poor Law Union and the Commissioners, respecting the compilation of a SCHOOL MANUAL of the HISTORY of *Ireland*, and Names of the persons to whom the preparation of the Work has been entrusted.

No. 1.—LETTER from Guardians of Ballinasloe Poor Law Union, asking if "Daunt's History of Ireland," and other Works specified, might be used in the Workhouse Schools.

(6656/58.)

Ballinasloe Union, 11 November 1858.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union to forward to you herewith the annexed copy of a communication made to the Board by Mr. Banfield in the Workhouse Schools, and I am directed to request you will be good enough to state if any objection exist to the introduction of the books named by Mr. Banfield.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Gill*,
Clerk of the Union.

To the Guardians of the Poor of Ballinasloe Union.

3 November 1858.

IT being on the last Board day referred to me to recommend some history for the use of the Workhouse Schools, I find the books at foot of this my Report mentioned have been used at National Schools, from which the children are reported to have derived much improvement, viz.,—

"Ince and Gilbert's History of Rome."
"The Child's History of England." Published by Burns and Lambert.
"Ince and Gilbert's Outlines of English History."
"Bucke's History of England."
"Daunt's History of Ireland."

(signed) *Andrew Banfield.*

No. 2.—LETTER from Commissioners to the Guardians, stating that when they (the Commissioners) shall have examined the Works in question, they will answer the Guardians' inquiry.

(6656/58.) Ballinasloe Workhouse National School, B. O. 19/11/58.

Office of National Education, 27 November 1858.

Sir,

WE have laid before the Commissioners of National Education your letter of the 11th instant, enclosing a copy of a list of books proposed by Mr. Banfield to be introduced into the National Schools of the Ballinasloe Poor Law Union, and requesting to be informed if there be any objection to the introduction of them.

We

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We are to state, in reply, that before the Commissioners can come to a decision on this question, they consider it necessary to examine the works referred to, for which purpose they have directed copies of them to be procured.

The ultimate decision of the Board will be made known in due course.

We are, &c.
(signed) *Maurice Cross,* } Secretaries.
James Kelly,

Clerk of the Union, Ballinasloe.

No. 3.—Letter to the Guardians, in continuation of the foregoing, asking which of the Books have been used at National Schools, as alleged, and in what National School.

(6656/58.) Ballinasloe Workhouse National School.

Sir, Office of National Education, 29 November 1858.

Referring to our letter of the 27th instant, we are to state, that the Commissioners of National Education observe in the copy of Mr. Banfield's Report that he alleges some of the books which he proposes to introduce into the above school "have been used at National Schools." The Commissioners are desirous of knowing which of the books have been so used, and in what National Schools. Perhaps the information can be obtained of Mr. Banfield.

We are, &c.
(signed) *Maurice Cross,* } Secretaries.
James Kelly,

Clerk of the Poor Law Union, Ballinasloe.

No. 4.—Reply of the Guardians to the foregoing enquiries.

(7223/58.)

Gentlemen, Ballinasloe Union, 8 December 1858.

Referring to your letter, dated the 27th ultimo, I am directed by the Board of Guardians to forward you accompanying a copy of a communication received from Mr. Banfield on the subject of the introduction of certain books for use into the schools under the National Board of Education.

I remain, &c.
Messrs. Cross & Kelly. (signed) *Thomas Gill,* Clerk of the Union.

Sir, Ballinasloe, 7 December 1858.

In reference to the Commissioner of National Education letter of the 29th November, I beg leave to state, that I waited on the Rev. Mr. Greene, the patron of two national, and founder of other schools, and enquired were pupils in his schools instructed in history. Having answered in the affirmative, I requested a list, with which request he complied, and the histories contained in that list are set out in my Report. At the time of inditing that Report, I was under the impression these histories were used in his National Schools, but subsequently that impression was removed by his informing me it was in his other schools these histories had been used. At the time Mr. Greene gave me said list, he informed me three of these histories were by Catholic, and two by Protestant authors.

From the very satisfactory improvement of the pupils in the several schools by Mr. Greene founded, I feel well advised in recommending the obtaining for the use of the Ballinasloe Workhouse Schools these histories in my said report mentioned.

I am not acquainted with any National School where children are instructed in history.

Permit me, &c.
Thos. Gill, Esq. (signed) *Andrew Banfield.*

No. 5.—Letter from Commissioners to the Guardians stating that they (the Commissioners) find, on examination that the Books are altogether unfit to be used in a National School, during the time for united instruction.

(6656/58.)

Ballinasloe Workhouse National School, B.O. 10/12/58.

Sir, Office of National Education, 14 December 1858.

Referring to our letter of the 27th ultimo, we are now to inform you that the Commissioners of National Education having procured copies of the books proposed by Mr. Banfield

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Banfield to be introduced into the above National School, and having examined them, find that these books are altogether unfit to be used in a National School during the time for united instruction.

You will have the goodness to lay this letter before the Guardians of the Ballinasloe Poor Law Union.

We are, &c.
(signed) *Maurice Cross,* } Secretaries.
James Kelly,

Clerk of the Union, Ballinasloe.

No. 6.—LETTER from the Guardians of Ballinasloe Poor Law Union to the Commissioners, submitting the propriety of supplying the National Schools with such Works as may be best calculated to give the children a proper Knowledge of the History of their own and other Countries. "Gordon's History of Ireland" and "Goldsmith's History of England" are proposed.

(519/59.)

Gentlemen, Ballinasloe Union, 20 January 1859.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union to forward to you herewith the annexed copies of Resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Board held yesterday, and, at the same time, to request you will be good enough to submit the same for the consideration of the Commissioners of National Education.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Gill,*
Clerk of the Union.

Messrs. Cross and Kelly.

Alderman Reynolds proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Michael E. Murphy:

"That we feel it our duty to draw the attention of the Commissioners of National Education to the great defect existing in their system in consequence of the total absence of historical information, and we call on the Commissioners to direct their immediate attention to the necessity of providing their schools with such historical books as may be best calculated to afford to the pupils a proper knowledge of the history of their own and other countries."

The foregoing resolution passed without a division, Mr. Comyn and Mr. Duffy dissenting.

Thomas S. Eyre proposed, "That 'Gordon's History of Ireland,' and 'Goldsmith's History of England,' be immediately submitted to the Commissioners of Education for their approval, to be learned in our schools."

The Board having divided on the subject, the resolution was adopted by a majority of eight to five, the following Guardians voting:—For, the Honourable Robert le Poer Trench—William H. Burke, Thomas S. Eyre, Norman Ashe, William S. Persse, Captain Gascoyne, Robert Sharpe, and the Earl of Clancarty; and against—Andrew N. Comyn, Alderman Reynolds, Andrew Banfield, Michael E. Murphy, and Walter Duffey.

Ordered, that the Clerk do forward copies of both resolutions to the Commissioners of Education.

No. 7.—REPLY of Commissioners to the foregoing, stating that they have already agreed as to the expediency of having a historical work compiled, suited for the united education of the pupils in their schools.

(519/59.)

Ballinasloe Poor Law Union National School, B. O., 28/1/59.

Sir, Education Office, 3 February 1859.

HAVING laid before the Commissioners of National Education your letter of the 20th ultimo, transmitting copies of Resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Guardians of the Ballinasloe Union on the 19th January, with respect to the propriety of including information on historical subjects in the course of instruction afforded in the National Schools.

We are directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Board of Guardians, that the Commissioners of National Education have long been anxious to introduce into their series

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series of books a work on history; but they have been unable to find any work extant which would be suitable for united education.

We are further directed to state, that before receiving the Resolutions enclosed in your letter, the Commissioners had come to the decision that steps should be taken, as soon as possible, towards the compilation of a historical work, which should serve for the united education of children of every persuasion, and which should contain no matter that could give just cause of offence, either on religious or political grounds, to persons of any denomination in Ireland.

We are, &c.
(signed) *Maurice Cross,* } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

Clerk of the Union, Balinasloe.

No. 8.

NOTE.—The compilation of a work on history is felt to be a task of a very delicate and difficult nature; and in consequence of this circumstance the Commissioners have not, as yet, been able to make satisfactory arrangements for bringing out the historical manual alluded to in the foregoing communication.

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